from time to time by the pharmaceutical industry on various issues, including the lifting of price control on drugs and pharmaceuticals. The Drug Price Control Review Committee was constituted by Government in the light of such representations. Its report was received in October, 1999.

Clean Environment and Chemical Industry

140. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that keeping of the environment clean in the Chemical industry will help reduce operational cost and bring down energy consumption in that industry; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Selective procurement of raw material, installation of sophisticated equipment and improvement in processes can result in cleaning up the environment. While the initial investment may be high, in the long run it may result in reduced recurring costs. The Government is laying down rigorous standards and the industry is using its ingenuity to achieve synergy between clean environment and cost reduction.

Production of Fertilizers by HFC

141. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what plan has been taken up by the Ministry to save industries under the HFC;

(b) the details of production of fertilizers in the HFC units; and

(c) what new development is going on to save the Namrup